



CITY OF GLOUCESTER COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE PROJECT APPLICATION COVER SHEET

I: Project Information

Project Title:

Maud / Olson Library and GWC Archives

Project Summary:

The proposal seeks support for the conservation and cataloging of historic materials in the care of Gloucester Writers Center. The Maud / Olson Library, located at 108 East Main Street, is considered the world's most complete archive of Gloucester poet Charles Olson's source material. The GWC Archives at GWC's Main office, 126 East Main Street, include an extensive collection of 20th century poetry, books by writers visiting GWC, as well as books by and about Vincent Ferrini, including original manuscripts. Electronic archives include audio and video recordings of GWC literary events, and rare archival footage of Charles Olson, Vincent Ferrini, Jack Kerouac, and others.

Estimated start date: January, 2016 Estimated completion date: September, 2016

CPA Program Area:

☐ Open Space

☐ Community Housing

☒ Historic Preservation

☐ Recreation

II: Applicant/Developer Information

Contact Person with primary responsibility for project: Henry Ferrini

Organization (if applicable): Gloucester Writers Center

Mailing Address: 126 East Main Street, Gloucester 01930

Daytime phone #: 978-281-2355

Fax #:

E-mail address: ferrini@comcast.net

Federal ID# 27-2817445

III: Budget Summary

Total budget for project: \$102,000

CPA funding request: \$10,000

CPA request as percentage of total budget: 10.2%

Applicant's Signature: _____

Printed name and Position: Henry Ferrini, Co-Director

Maud / Olson Library & Archives Narrative

The Gloucester Writers Center requests \$10,000 from the Gloucester CPA to support the conservation and cataloging of historic materials entrusted to our care: the Maud / Olson Library and GWC Archives.

The Gloucester Writers Center, Inc.

The Gloucester Writers Center was founded to celebrate, preserve, and promote Gloucester's rich literary legacy, with a special interest in those authors whose writings are born of the local cultural, political, historical, and physical landscape of Gloucester and Cape Ann – notably Vincent Ferrini (1913-2007) and Charles Olson (1910-1970).

Housed in the home of Vincent Ferrini, GWC is a gathering place and resource center for local, national, and international writers in all genres and realms of interest - supporting writers and readers through literary readings, community education, a writer-in-residence program, audio and video archives, and now, the Maud / Olson Library, located steps away at 108 East Main Street.

Charles Olson

Charles Olson was an acclaimed poet who lived in and wrote about Gloucester. He is considered one of the major poets of the 20th century, and had a profound influence on many contemporary poets, including Robert Duncan, Robert Creeley, Denise Levertov, Allen Ginsberg, Dianne di Prima, Amiri Baraka, and Michael McClure. Olson studies have continued into the 21st Century, with new discoveries and revised assessments by scholars in the Americas, Europe, and the Far East.

Ralph Maud

Ralph Maud (1928-2014) was a colleague and friend of Charles Olson, and a leading authority on Olson's life and work. Maud was interested in the sources of Olson's poetry, and undertook the ambitious task of identifying and collecting a copy of every book Olson had ever owned, read, or referred to. His book *Olson's Reading* is a key text in Olson studies. By the time of Maud's death, his collection of Charles Olson source materials had grown to 3100 copies of books that Olson was known to have owned, read, or referred to. In addition to this replica library, Maud also gathered 800 titles by and about Olson. Maud acquired Olson's originally owned copies when available, but most of the books in the library are duplicates. The value of each title stems not from the fact that it was once held in Olson's hands, but rather the fact that it was held in Olson's mind.

The books in Olson's home at the time of his death were acquired by the University of Connecticut. Other Olson-owned titles are housed in libraries at SUNY Buffalo, Harvard, and Simon Fraser University in Canada. All of the books held in other libraries, combined, include only half of the titles known to have been used by Olson, collected by Maud, and now housed together in Gloucester, for the benefit of scholars.

According to Maud's wishes, the collection is now entrusted to the stewardship of the Gloucester Writers Center, and is housed at 108 East Main Street, in Gloucester.

Inventory of historic cultural resources – a searchable catalog

Ralph Maud created his own system to catalog the books and papers in his collection, and each item in the library bears a bookplate with his alphanumeric code – as well as information about links to Olson's work – when and where he read it, and how it relates to his work. All of this information is now stored in an MS Word document. Support from this proposal will help GWC to transform that document into a fully searchable online catalog, freely available to scholars and the public.

Over the decades, Maud made pilgrimages to the dispersed collections, and painstakingly transcribed Olson's marginal notes from the originals to the duplicate copies – allowing the reader to 'eavesdrop' on Olson's thought processes. GWC will photograph and transcribe these annotations, so the images and text can be added to the publicly available database.

This proposal also includes cataloging GWC's Archives: an additional 1500 items, including extensive collection of 20th century poetry, books by writers visiting GWC, books by and about Vincent Ferrini - including original manuscripts.

Since its founding in 2010, GWC has made audio and video recordings of many eminent literary figures. These items are already available to the public, gratis, but need to be cataloged so that they are optimally accessible to scholars and others.

GWC co-founder and co-director, Henry Ferrini, is a documentary filmmaker who has produced acclaimed film portraits of Charles Olson, Vincent Ferrini, Jack Kerouac, and others. Over decades he has filmed interviews with many 20th century poets, and also collected archival footage. Though much of this collection is not in the public domain – and cannot be made available via internet – it can be cataloged for historians and other scholars, and made available for viewing at the Maud / Olson Library.

Community Needs

Support from the Gloucester CPA will help GWC to make these treasure troves of Gloucester history more accessible than they have ever been - to international scholars, local students, and to the general public.

Preservation of Historic Documents

The conservation of each book will begin by covering it with an archival Gaylord book jacket, and attaching a catalog code to the spine. For the Maud / Olson collection, bookplates with Maud's information about Olson's use of the book, and Olson's margin notes, will be photographed and transcribed.

The same conservation methods will be applied to the print materials in the GWC archives – the 1500 titles including volumes by and about Vincent Ferrini, 20th century poets, local authors and eminent visitors to GWC.

Another important collection is GWC's audio and video archives. Since its inception six years ago, GWC has made audio or video recordings of scores of literary readings. All of these are accessible, without charge, via the website. But incorporating these items into the same highly searchable database used for the Maud / Olson Library will allow users to search on any parameter.

In addition, GWC Co-Director Henry Ferrini has historic footage of Vincent Ferrini, Charles Olson, and other writers, which will be housed at the Maud / Olson Library and integrated into the catalogue. Where GWC has permission, this historic audio and video material will be also be made accessible online; items for which we do not have permission will be available for viewing at the Maud /Olson library, either during regular opening hours, or by appointment.

The budget of \$102,000 includes \$60,000 for one-off start-up costs, including the conservation and cataloguing described above. The recurring annual cost to operate the library is \$42,000.

CITY OF GLOUCESTER

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Please provide a project timeline below, noting all project milestones. Please note that because the City Council must approve all appropriations, CPA funds may not be available until up to two months following Committee approval.

	Activity	Estimated Date
Project Start Date:	Launch of phase 2 - conservation and cataloging of Maud / Olson Library and GWC archives	January 2017
Project Milestone:	25% complete	March 2017
50% Completion Stage:	50% complete	May 2017
Project Milestone:	75% complete	July 2017
Project Completion Date:	100% complete	September 2017

CITY OF GLOUCESTER

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

BUDGET FORM

Project Name: Maud / Olson Library and GWC Archives

Applicant: Gloucester Writers Center, Inc.

SOURCES OF FUNDING		
Source	Amount	
Community Preservation Act Fund	\$10,000	
Individual Major Donors	\$82,000	
Special events	\$10,000	
Total Project Funding	\$102,000	
PROJECT EXPENSES		
Expense	Amount	Please indicate which expenses will be funded by CPA Funds:
Once off project set-up expenses		
Acquisition and transport of the Maud / Olson collection	35,000	
Lighting	2,000	
Computer and printer	1,700	
Library database software	900	
Library database support	400	
Conservation and cataloging of 5,500 items: materials and labor	20,000	10,000
Set-up subtotal	60,000	
Recurring annual operating expenses		
Rent & utilities	16,800	
Insurance	500	
Internet	600	
Supplies	100	
Mold prevention	200	
Library management and public programs	23,800	
Operations subtotal	42,000	
Total Project Expenses	\$102,000	

April 12, 2016

Community Preservation Committee
City of Gloucester
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear CPA Board Members:

I am pleased to write in support of the Gloucester Writers Center's request for \$10,000 from Gloucester CPA funding to support the conservation and cataloging of historic materials in the Ralph Maud/Charles Olson Library and GWC Archives, located at 108 and 126 East Main Street, Gloucester.

Gloucester, through the Writers Center, is now fortunate to possess what one Charles Olson scholar has referred to as "the most complete archive of Charles Olson's source material in the world. "

What does this mean for the community, and how can CPA funding help the library pursue its mission?

What this means for the community is that located permanently in Gloucester is an invaluable archive of primary sources for research on the life and work of the major 20th century poet, historian, teacher and local resident, Charles Olson, an archive that exists nowhere else. Not only will this archive draw writers, scholars and students who wish to study Olson's work to the city. It will also provide for local residents a resource through which to learn about poetry and the life of the mind as exemplified by Olson.

As a collection of rare and important historical and literary materials, the library requires that its books, manuscripts and other publications receive the kinds of necessary professional preservation and conservation outlined in the grant proposal.

The library not only houses this splendid collection, it will also provide a meeting place for those interested in learning about poetry through readings, educational programs, and meetings between writers who live here and those who will come from the United States and other countries, drawn by the holdings of the library.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Anastas". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Anastas" clearly legible.

Peter Anastas
9 Page Street,
Gloucester, MA 01930



ten pound island book company

76 langsford st., gloucester, ma., 01930 (978) 283-5299 fax (978) 283-5235

4/14/2016

Dear CPA Board:

Ralph Maud was a colleague and friend of the postmodernist poet Charles Olson when the two men taught at SUNY Buffalo in the 1960s. After Olson's death in 1970 Maud became a leading authority on Olson's life and work. Along with writing and publishing books about Olson, and editing the scholarly newsletter of Olson studies, Ralph began the ambitious and admittedly Quixotic task of identifying and collecting a copy of every book Olson had ever owned, read, or referred to. Over the years, even as Ralph's connection with Gloucester deepened, his collection of Olson books grew apace. When he died in 2014, Ralph donated the collection to the Gloucester Writers Center - the place he felt was its rightful home.

We should be clear about exactly what this collection is. Ralph's painstakingly thorough research resulted in a list of thousands of books that Olson had owned, read, or referred to. Ralph then went about obtaining a duplicate copy of each of these titles. (Some of the originals had been lost, were dispersed in libraries around the country, or had been referred to, but never owned by Olson.) Wherever possible, Maud tracked down the Olson original and, if Olson had made notes in his copy, Maud transcribed the notes verbatim into his duplicate copy. He also made a note in almost every book in the collection indicating how Olson had used the book in his work.

Ralph Maud's lifetime of scholarly labor represents an enormous advantage to scholars. A person wishing to devote further study to Olson's sources or curious about how Olson used those sources, would have to travel to locations as diverse as Vancouver, British Columbia, Storrs CT, Cambridge MA, or Buffalo NY in order to examine all of the diverse holdings of Olson material. Or, a scholar could simply go to Gloucester, Massachusetts and sit down with exact duplicates of Olson's copies of the books in these far flung libraries, and thousands of other works mined by Olson and annotated by Maud. Furthermore, the scholar would have available the hundreds of supporting scholarly "Reference" books also in the Maud / Olson Library.

But the Maud / Olson Library is, first and foremost, a community resource. It is a splendid teaching aid for local students, a resource for residents interested in reading and writing poetry, and a meeting space for continuing the dialogue between this city and the writers who worked here.



Greg Gibson



(tenpound@tenpound.com)

established 1976





Gloucester Historical Commission
Gloucester City Hall
9 Dale Avenue
Gloucester, MA 01930

April 1, 2016

Debbie Laurie
Community Preservation Committee
3 Pond Road
Gloucester City Hall Annex
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Debbie Laurie,

On March 28 the Gloucester Historical Commission reviewed the eligibility of the remaining applicants for the 2016 CPA grant cycle. Representatives made presentations to the GHC, which helped us to make decisions regarding eligibility under CPA criteria. The applicants who attended our meeting included:

1. Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association for the restoration and preservation of the Wheeler School/GFD Riverdale Hose Co. No 2 at 6 Stanwood Street in its adaptive reuse as a clubhouse for a nonprofit organization. This property and the proposed project are eligible for CPA funds.
2. Mount Pleasant Cemetery Association for the restoration of the Civil War monument in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, which is in danger of falling. We find that the monument and its restoration are eligible for CPA funds.
3. Office of the City Clerk for the portable archival storage of City of Gloucester records. We find that the sustainable preservation of archives is eligible as a separate criterion under the CPA rules. It is also required by law for municipalities. We don't know how this grant proposal will be affected by Linda Lowe's retirement.
4. The Gloucester Writers Center for the archival preservation and cataloguing of books and manuscripts in the highly historically significant Maud/Olson Library, donated to them, to be installed at 108 East Main St. in Gloucester. This collection and GWC's goals for it are eligible for CPA funding.

The Gloucester Historical Commission has already sent letters of support of CPA eligibility for the Welcome Center in State Fort Park for historic preservation, rehabilitation of the Deluge 8 firehouse in Annisquam as an archivally safe repository for historically significant documents and artifacts, and the historic preservation and adaptive reuse of the Paul Manship Estate in Lanesville.

Another Eligibility Determination form forwarded to us by the CPC was requested by State of the Art Gallery for the recreation and relocation of the Earl F. Rice bronze plaque at the Blyman School. However, there was no presentation and we received no further information or photographs. A keyword search in Google did not lead to any information about this plaque other than the fact that Earl F. Rice was a World War II veteran. I talked with Roger Armstrong of State of the Art Gallery today and learned that the plaque needs to be recreated because it was stolen years ago and that he has received DPW approval for the work, needs to receive funds in time to do the work this summer, did not know to provide information to the GHC, does not know if the stone is on City property or to what site the stone should be relocated, and was not aware that he needed to submit a more substantive application to the CPC by April 15. He also meant to say Beeman School rather than Blyman School. I offered to have the GHC see photographs and/or make a site visit but pointed out that little time remains. We wonder if there other alternatives for this applicant and in any case are unable to make a determination of CPA eligibility at this time.

I hope this letter will meet the CPC's needs for evaluating proposals for CPA funding. Please let us know if there is anything further we can do. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mary Ellen Lepionka
Co-Chair, Gloucester Historical Commission

